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# Agri-News

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DECEMBER 28, 2000**

## TENNESSEE HOG INVENTORY DOWN 8 PERCENT

Tennessee's total hog and pig inventory declined for the sixth consecutive year to a historically low 230,000 head on December 1, 2000. This was a decrease of 8 percent from December 1, 1999, and the smallest inventory since records began in 1867. Due to high cost of production and poor returns, numerous small and medium-sized operations went out of business, mostly in the December 1999 to June 2000 time frame. Barrow and gilt prices rose sharply the first half of the year from their extremely depressed 1999 levels then dipped and stabilized in the 35 to 40 cents per pound range at the end of 2000. The December 1, 2000, inventory breakdown and comparison to 1999 is as follows: breeding hogs, 35,000 head, up 17 percent; market hogs, 195,000 head, down 11 percent. Weight group comparisons show pigs weighing less than 60 pounds at the same level as a year ago; 60 - 119 pounds, down 17 percent; 120 - 179 pounds, unchanged; and 180 pounds and over, down 30 percent from December 1, 1999.

## 2000 FARROWINGS AND PIG CROP

Tennessee producers farrowed 67,000 sows from December 1999 through November 2000 compared to 54,000 sows which farrowed during the same period a year earlier. Tennessee's annual litter rate of 8.28 was slightly better than 1999's annual rate of 8.07. This excellent rate produced a pig crop of 555,000 head, 27 percent more than the previous year.

## PLACES WITH HOGS DOWN 12 PERCENT; A RECORD LOW

During 2000, there were 1,500 operations with one or more hogs in Tennessee (having at least one pig at any time during the period Dec. 1999 to Nov. 2000). This compares with 1,700 in 1999 and 5,500 just six years ago.

### HOGS AND PIGS: NUMBER ON FARMS, TENNESSEE, DECEMBER 1, 1990-2000

Year	Dec. 1 Inventory	Breeding	Market	Under 60 lbs.	60 - 119 lbs.	120 - 179 lbs.	180 + lbs.
1,000 Head							
1990	620	90	530	210	130	110	80
1991	670	90	580	225	150	115	90
1992	600	85	515	195	120	110	90
1993	500	70	430	150	115	100	65
1994	580	75	505	190	115	110	90
1995	500	65	435	170	102	92	71
1996	400	51	349	129	85	71	64
1997	340	45	295	115	75	60	45
1998	300	40	260	120	55	40	45
1999	250	30	220	70	60	40	50
2000	230	35	195	70	50	40	35

(OVER)

**HOGS AND PIGS: FARROWING AND PIG CROP, TENNESSEE, DEC. - NOV. 1990 - 2000**

Year	Sows Farrowing	% Prev. Year	Pigs Per Litter	% Prev. Year	Pig Crop	% Prev. Year
	1,000 Head		Rate Per Sow		1,000 Head	
1990	142	76	7.75	101	1,101	77
1991	151	106	7.50	97	1,132	103
1992	145	96	7.67	102	1,112	98
1993	127	88	7.43	97	943	85
1994	127	100	7.69	104	976	103
1995	117	92	7.91	103	926	95
1996	97	83	7.88	100	764	83
1997	73	75	8.16	104	596	78
1998	80	110	8.18	100	654	110
1999	54	68	8.07	99	436	67
2000	67	124	8.28	103	555	127

**U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 1 PERCENT**

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2000, was 59.8 million head. This was 1 percent above December 1999, but slightly below September 1, 2000.

Breeding inventory, at 6.28 million head, was up 1 percent from December 1, 1999, and up slightly from September 1, 2000. Market hog inventory, at 53.6 million head, was 1 percent above last year, but slightly below last quarter.

The September-November 2000 U.S. pig crop, at 25.5 million head, was 2 percent more than 1999, but 1 percent less than 1998. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.88 million head, 1 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.88 pigs saved per litter for the September-November period, compared to 8.78 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.91 million sows farrow during the December 2000-February 2001 quarter, 4 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in 2000, and 1 percent above 1999. Intended farrowings for March-May 2001, at 2.92 million sows, are 1 percent above the same period in 2000 but down 2 percent from 1999.

The number of hog operations with hogs totaled 85,760 during 2000, down 13 percent from last year and 25 percent below 1998. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 8 percent of the operations and 72 percent of the inventory. This is the fifth time operations with inventories over 2,000 head have controlled over 50 percent of the total inventory. The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory at, 2,095, accounted for 50.5 percent of the total inventory, up from 46.5 percent a year ago. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000 head operations, but raised by contractees, accounted for 30 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, down from 32 percent last year.